

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227373 TOSEC 130068

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TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

SILVEIRA

1. THE SECRETARY HELD BILATERAL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 22 IN SECRETARY'S SUITE AT WALDORF TOWERS. HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS. SILVEIRA CLAIMED THAT TROUBLE WITH US IS IT FEELS FORCED TO HAVE A LATIN AMERICAN POLICY INSTEAD OF TRUSTING TO BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE SECRETARY MADE IT CLEAR TO SILVEIRA THAT US DOES NOT INTEND TO DEAL WITH LATIN AMERICA AS A BLOC, BUT WOULD PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO BRAZIL HE STATED HIS INTENTION OF MAKING A VISIT IN THREE OR FOUR MONTHS, BUT CERTAINLY NO LATER THAN JANUARY.

3. PURSUING THE QUESTION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, SILVEIRA SAID HE MUST BE ABLE TO SHOW THAT THE US IS INTERESTED IN SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH BRAZIL. HE NOTED HE WILL BE SIGNING
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AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FRENCH TO ESTABLISH A KIND OF JOINT

COMMISSION SIMILAR TO ONE BRAZIL HAS WITH GERMANY. SECRETARY AGREED THAT SOME MECHANISM MUST BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN US AND BRAZIL FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION. SILVEIRA

RECALLED THAT HE HAD MADE SEVERAL PROPOSALS IN THE PAST BUT HE IS FLEXIBLE AND SIMPLY WANTS MACHINERY IN WHICH "EVERYTHING" CAN BE DISCUSSED. PROBLEM IS, HE SAID, THAT AFTER AN HOUR'S TALK (E.G. WITH ROBINSON) WE THINK EVERYTHING IS SOLVED. BUT US CAN'T RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF ITS SYSTEM. QUESTION REMAINED HOW TO SET UP THE MACHINERY AND THIS WAS LEFT FOR LATER WITH POSSIBILITY DECISION MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT.

4. SECRETARY NOTED WE HAVE TWO PROBLEMS IN ESTABLISHING SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY. ONE WAS CURRENT CRISIS OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY VIS-A-VIS CONGRESS AND THE OTHER IS OUR LEGAL SYSTEM. IN ADDITION US GOVERNMENT TENDS TO THINK IN EAST-WEST TERMS; IT HAS BECOME A KIND OF SYNDROME. HOWEVER, SECRETARY SAID, HE WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL, NOT FOR ANY REASONS OF SENTIMENT BUT SIMPLY IN OUR OWN SELF INTEREST IN LIGHT OF BRAZIL'S GROWING IMPORTANCE.

5. SILVEIRA MAINTAINED THAT ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IS THAT US IS SO POWERFUL IT SEES EVERYTHING IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. HE CITED AS EXAMPLE ATOMIC ENERGY AND PROBLEM OF OBTAINING A FIRM COMMITMENT. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED BRAZIL WOULD NEVER ACCEPT A NON-NATIONAL PROCESSING PLANT. BRAZIL WILL ACCEPT MANY THINGS, SILVEIRA SAID, SO LONG AS THEY ARE COMPATIBLE WITH NATIONAL INTERESTS.

6. BRIEF MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF BRAZILIAN DECREE PROVIDING FOR TRADE RETALIATION, QUESTION OF SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES (LATTER IN FORM OF COMPLAINT BY AMB. CORREIA DA COSTA REGARDING US POSITION), AND CIVIL AVIATION PROBLEMS BUT THESE ISSUES WERE NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL.

7. CUBA. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT US PUBLIC OPINION
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IGNORES LATIN AMERICA WITH EXCEPTION OF PANAMA, CUBA AND CHILE. AND WITH CARE WE CAN GRADUALLY REMOVE CUBA AS A DOMESTIC ISSUE. SILVEIRA REMARKED THAT WITH REGARD TO CUBA HE HAD TO RESPECT PUBLIC OPINION BUT BRAZIL HAD BEEN VERY DISCREET AND BY ASSUMING THIS POSTURE HAD POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE SOLUTION. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT OUR PRIMARY INTEREST IN CUBA IS TO PREVENT IT FROM BEING BONE OF CONTENTION IN HEMISPHERE.

8. ARGENTINA. SILVEIRA THOUGHT ROBLEDO HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN ACCEPTING THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR; HE HAD THEREBY BECOME A LUDER'S MAN WHEREAS IF HE HAD STUCK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN

A MORE INDEPENDENT POSITION, ESPECIALLY IF PRES. PERON RETURNS. SILVEIRA SPOKE HIGHLY OF ROBLEDO AND THOUGHT HE MIGHT WELL BE THE NEXT ARGENTINE PRESIDENT.

9. MIDDLE EAST. SECRETARY, IN DESCRIBING CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN MIDDLE EAST, SAID WE ARE TRYING TO GIVE EVERY CHANCE TO SYRIA TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL. WE ARE NOT GOING TO ALLOW ANYTHING TO STOP THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE REAL OBSTACLE IS ISRAEL, NOT SYRIA, JORDAN OR THE PALESTINIANS. BUT SYRIA IS A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR. ASAD IS A ROMANTIC, SERIOUS AND HAS PROGRESSED A LONG WAY IN SELF EDUCATION ABOUT REALITIES. NOW HE HAS A LOT OF PROBLEMS AS THE RESULT OF CONFLICTING PRESSURES. HE IS A MODERATE BY SYRIAN STANDARDS.

10. ISRAEL PROBABLY CAN'T MOVE YET AS IT WILL TAKE A FEW MONTHS TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION. BUT ISRAEL WANTS TO BE PUSHED TOWARD A SETTLEMENT.

11. SECOND BILATERAL. AT CLOSE OF DISCUSSION, SECRETARY INVITED SILVEIRA TO CONTINUE THEIR CONVERSATION ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27. ROBINSON

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